distribution at reasonable rates through PDS to help handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Yes, Sir.

Increase in Cotton Yarn Prices

6575. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for unusual increase in the prices of cotton yarn, even after the ICMF has agreed to supply yarn to handloom cooperative through the NHDC at reduced prices than the existing high prices in January, 1994;

(b) whether a telegraphic representation has been made to the Prime Minister that there has been vast difference between the ex-mill rate and the retail rate of cotton yarns and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to reduce the exploitation by the mills and middlemen dealing with cotton and other yarns; and

(d) the reasons for not adopting the policy of printing the ex-mill rate and retail rate of cotton yarns on the bundles and bales of cotton yarn, just as the rates are printed on medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The commitment of ICMF to supply yarn at reduced rate was only in respect of the quantity supplied by them to handloom agencies and not with regard to overall market price.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Textile Commissioner has been asked to issue appropriate notification amending the provisions of Textiles (Consumer Protection) Regulation, 1988 to incorporate the provision for marking prices on bundles/ packages of yarn.

Purchase of Cotton by Cotton Corporation of India

6576. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India in 1993-94 and the places, the names of the individual and institutions from whom the quantities of cotton were purchased and also the prices at which purchased;

(b) the policy laid down by Government for purchase of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India;

(c) whether this Policy has helped to check the unprecedented increase in prices of cotton and cotton yarn; and

(d) The support prices of cotton at which cotton was actually purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India and the difference between the purchase price and the support price per quintal of kapas or a candy of lint of each variety of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Import of Cotton and Viscose Staple Fibre

6577. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted the textile mill industry to import 5 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton free of import duty;

(b) the names of mills, with their headquarters, actually permitted to import the bales of cotton and the quantities, mill-wise;

(c) what is the total amount Government are foregoing by allowing the duty-free imports of cotton;

(d) whether his Ministry has permitted the textile mills to import 30,000 tonnes of V.S.F. (Viscose Staple Fibre) at